

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM
COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, April 16, 2003 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Beverly Ann Evans, Senate Chair
Rep. Craig W. Buttars, House Chair
Sen. Thomas Hatch
Sen. Parley G. Hellewell
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Eli H. Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Loraine T. Pace

Rep. Darin G. Peterson
Rep. Michael R. Styler
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. David Ure

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. Jeanenne B. Larson, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Evans called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. Rep. Ure was excused from the meeting. Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

MOTION: Sen. Wright moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2002 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Urquhart was absent for the vote.

2. Review of 2003 Interim Studies

Mr. Brian Allred discussed "Potential 2003 Interim Studies and Reports" which was included in the mailing packet. He noted that no sunset reviews have been assigned to the Committee.

Rep. Buttars reviewed a proposed list of study items and a schedule of meetings that the cochairs developed. He asked the members to let them know what issues they consider a priority.

3. Chronic Wasting Disease

Dr. Mike Marshall, State Veterinarian, UDAF (Utah Department of Agriculture and Food), distributed and discussed handouts "CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease): Farmed and Wild," "UDAF Licensed Elk Ranches and Hunting Parks," and "Detected CWD in Wild Deer & Elk." In Utah, only one case of CWD has been found. He reported on other diseases for which the state tests.

Mr. Terry Menlove, UDAF, briefly discussed the process brand inspectors have to follow in an effort to

maintain testing compliance.

4. Drought Conditions in Utah

Mr. Randy Julander, Natural Resources Conservation Service, gave a slide presentation on the drought conditions in Utah. He noted that snowpack levels were significantly decreased recently due to strong warm winds. Reservoir storage in the state is down about 600,000 acre feet of water since last year.

Mr. Larry Anderson, Director, Division of Water Resources, distributed a handout "Use Water Wisely!" He commented on the water conservation measures being taken by different communities in the state. Mr. Anderson reviewed the efforts of the Governor's Water Conservation team whose mission is to develop a long-term, statewide conservation ethic with a goal to reduce M&I water use by 25 percent.

Mr. Kyle Stevens, UDAF, stated producers in all 29 counties sustained at least a 30 percent loss, making the entire state eligible for disaster assistance for agriculture programs. He distributed and reviewed a press release and a map of counties approved for the Non-Fat Dry Milk Program and handouts "U.S. Drought Monitor September 3, 2002 and March 11, 2003."

5. Department Head Report

Ms. Dianne Nielson, Executive Director, DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality), distributed and reviewed a summary of her presentation. She discussed the six divisions within the DEQ and their responsibilities. Key issues DEQ will be considering during the year are waste management, growth management, and financial management.

Mr. Bob Morgan, Director, DNR (Department of Natural Resources), distributed a handout "Annual Report/Directory of Services." He identified the seven divisions within the DNR and discussed the issues that will come before the Committee during the year from the divisions.

Mr. Stevens distributed and reviewed handouts "Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Organizational Chart" and "State of Utah 2002 Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Survey." He said that UDAF would like to pursue licensing requirements for food establishments and weights and measures facilities as possible legislation.

6. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Evans adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.